

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ALEXAN 00797 051429Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 COME-00 /019 W
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FM AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1093
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ALEXANDRIA 0797

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BEXP, EG
SUBJECT: MARITIME ACADEMY ASKS POLLUTION STUDY

REF: ALEXANDRIA 795

1. REFTEL DESCRIBES TRADE OPPORTUNITY FOR US CONSULTING FIRMS TO
"UNDERTAKE AN ASSESSMENT OF THE HAZARDS, SAFETY AND AIR POLLUTION
IMPACTS OF THE ABU KIR UREA PLANT" ON NEIGHBORING ARAB MARITIME TRAIN
ING
ACADEMY (AMTA) CAMPUS.

2. PROBLEM IS CLASSIC OF UNCOORDINATED PLANNING. AMTA HAD ALMOST
COMPLETED AN EXPENSIVE (ARAB OIL MONEY FUNDED) CAMPUS FOR THREE
YEAR OLD ACADEMY (ARAB OIL MONEY FUNDED) ON SHORE OF ABU KIR BAY,
WHEN THEY DISCOVERED UREA PLANT (ARAB OIL MONEY FUNDED) WAS TO BE
ERECTED ON ADJACENT LAND.

3. CALLING ON PRIME MINISTER MAMDOUH SALEM A YEAR AGO TO HALT
CONSTRUCTION OF UREA PLANT, ACADEMY RECEIVED SOLOMONIC DECISION
THAT 500 METER STRIP OF UREA PLANT PROPERTY WOULD BE CEDED TO ACADEMY

,
AND MAIN PLANT AND HIGH DISCHARGE STACK WOULD BE SITUATED ON
FARTHEST EDGE OF COMPANY'S PROPERTY.

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4. GIVEN PREVAILING WINDS, THAT IS SMALL CONFORT, AND GIVEN
PREVAILING ECONOMIC SITUATION, ADVERSE ECOLOGICAL FINDINGS WILL
PROBABLY NOT DEMOLISH HALF-COMPLETED FERTILIZER FACTORY.

5. AMTA'S FURTHER PROBLEM, WE HAVE, IS THAT ARAB LEAGUE SPONSORS
(SIXTEEN OF THE MEMBER STATES) ARE THREATENING TO MOVE ACADEMY TO
KUWAIT, CITING EGYPTIAN SQUANDERING OF FUNDS (ESPECIALLY BUILDING

CAMPUS NEXT TO FERTILIZER FACTORY), FAVORING EGYPTIANS FOR BOTH STUDENT BODY AND STAFF, AND ADMITTING AFRICAN AND OTHER "OUTSIDE" STUDENTS WHILE REFUSING PLACES TO SUPPORTING ARAB STATES.

6. WE ARE STILL CONVINCED OF AMTA'S POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION TO ARAB MARITIME FUTURE AND LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUED AND CLOSER TIES TO US MARITIME ACADEMIES. NEVERTHELESS, CURRENT SITUATION MAY LEAVE A BAD ODOR. CHASE

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